Starvation deaths

1848. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been starvation deaths of farmers in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No starvation death of farmers has been reported by any State Government/Union Territory.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foodgrains to BPL families in Jharkhand and Orissa

1849. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that around 60 per cent of BPL families in Jharkhand have not been getting foodgrains from Government;

(b) whether the difference in allocation and realization of foodgrains are due to shortage of godowns of the FCI in the State;

(c) if so, the reasons which are plaguing the system in both Jharkhand and Orissa which are facing the brunt of its inefficiency; and

(d) the action plan of the Centre to fix responsibility on the inefficient officials and streamlining the process to secure foodgrains to the BPL families in both the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There are 23.94 lakh BPL families (including AAY families) in Jharkhand for which monthly allocation of 0.84 lakh tonnes of foodgrains

is being made under TPDS @ 35 kg. per family per month. As against this allocation the offtake of foodgrains by Jharkhand in the current financial year is about 65%. It is, therefore, not correct to say that around 60 per cent of BPL families in Jharkhand have not been getting foodgrains from Government.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. In Jharkhand the FCI has a storage capacity of 1.13 lakh tonnes against the average offtake of about 0.78 lakh tonnes per month for all the schemes during 2005-06 (upto October, 2005) which includes the average offtake of about 0.54 lakh tonnes per month for BPL families.

In Orissa there is a storage capacity of 5.95 lakh tonnes against the average offtake of 1.71 lakh tonnes per month for all schemes during 2005-06 (upto October, 2005) which includes average offtake of about 0.92 lakh tonnes per month for BPL families.

(d) The offtake of foodgrains under BPL in the States of Jharkhand and Orissa is around 65%.

The TPDS is implemented under joint responsibility of the Centre and State Governments. While the Central Government is responsible to provide requisite quantity of foodgrains to the State Governments as per the approved norms and also to move the foodgrains to the nearest designated FCI depots in each State/UT, the State Governments are responsible to lift the foodgrains and distribute the same to the identified beneficiaries under TPDS. In order to improve the efficiency, accountability and effectiveness in TPDS, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified. The other measures taken by the Government in this regard are involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, model citizen's charter, visit of Area Officers, constitution and deputation of vigilance committees task force teams to check irregularities and to inspect and monitor the functioning of TPDS in States/UTs. Conference of State Food Secretaries, State Food Ministers, meeting with All India Fair Price Shop Dealers Federation, and a meeting with all the Members of the Parliament was organized for strengthening of TPDS. Regional conferences have also been held with focus on the unique problems of the region and to facilitate strengthening of the TPDS, in a manner, which may be relevant to the local environment.